

would understand with sufficient subtlety this vacillation, this passionate indecision of my whole being, this equal aptitude for contraries? Depersonalization, obtained by an effort of the will and with such difficulty, which could be explained and excused only by the production of works that it authorizes and with an eye to which I have striven to suppress my preferences. Absurdity of the objective method (Flaubert). Cease to be oneself in order to be all. Danger of aiming toward a limitless empire. To conquer Russia, Napoleon had to risk France. Necessity of linking the frontier with the center. It is time to return home, (This will be the subject of *Alexandre aux Indes?*)

Constant *vagabundance*³ of desire—one of the chief causes of the deteriorating of the personality.

Urgent necessity to recover possession of oneself.

But can one still make resolutions when one is over forty? I live according to twenty-year-old habits. Did I know what I was doing at twenty? When I made the resolution to look at everything, never to prefer myself to anything and always to give preference to what differed most from me. . . .

Even my insomnia struck me last night as a form of perplexity, a kind of difficulty in making up my mind to sleep.

Never go out without a definite aim; hold to this.

Walk along without looking in every direction.

In a train choose any compartment whatever; and enter the subway train by the first door you see, without looking for something better. Do not scorn little victories; as soon as it is a matter of the will, the *much* is only the patient addition of the *little*.

Forbid oneself every kind of vacillation,

Zurich, Tuesday evening

Everything I wrote this evening will strike me as silly in a short while. Already I feel better; this brisk air has put me

back on my feet;
I am again becoming aware of my strength. This state
is the very one I
wanted; but as soon as I weaken, I cease to be anyone
because of having
wanted to be all (state of the perfect novelist), for fear
of being only
someone.

It is as a conqueror, not as a traveler, that
Alexander advances in
new lands; he is seeking the *limits* of the world, etc. . .

² No work by Andre Gide entitled "Alexander in
India" has been
published.

³ The French text has the same made-up word from
vagabondage and
abondance.